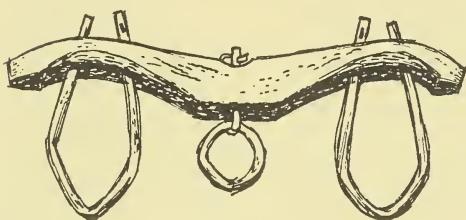


973.7L63 A.Lincoln: Sculpture, Lincoln
EAb821 Highway Summit [Wyoming]:
Robert I. Russin, sculptor.

(Dedication, 18 Oct. 1959)

LINCOLN ROOM
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SCULPTURE / LINCOLN HIGHWAY SUMMIT

LINCOLN

ROBERT I. RUSSIN / SCULPTOR

973.7167
EAB 821

T

The world's largest bronze head of Abraham Lincoln was dedicated at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 18, 1959 as a part of Wyoming's celebration of the 150th year after Lincoln's birth.



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It will serve as the focal point of a new roadside park.

T

The 12½-foot,

three and one half ton head,

the work of University of Wyoming art professor and sculptor, Robert I. Russin,

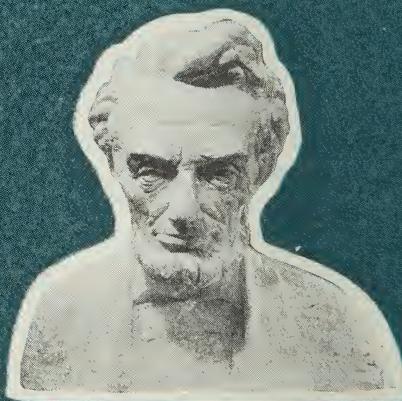
rests on top of a 30-foot native granite stone base

at the summit of U.S. Highway 30, ten miles southeast of

LARAMIE, WYOMING.

S

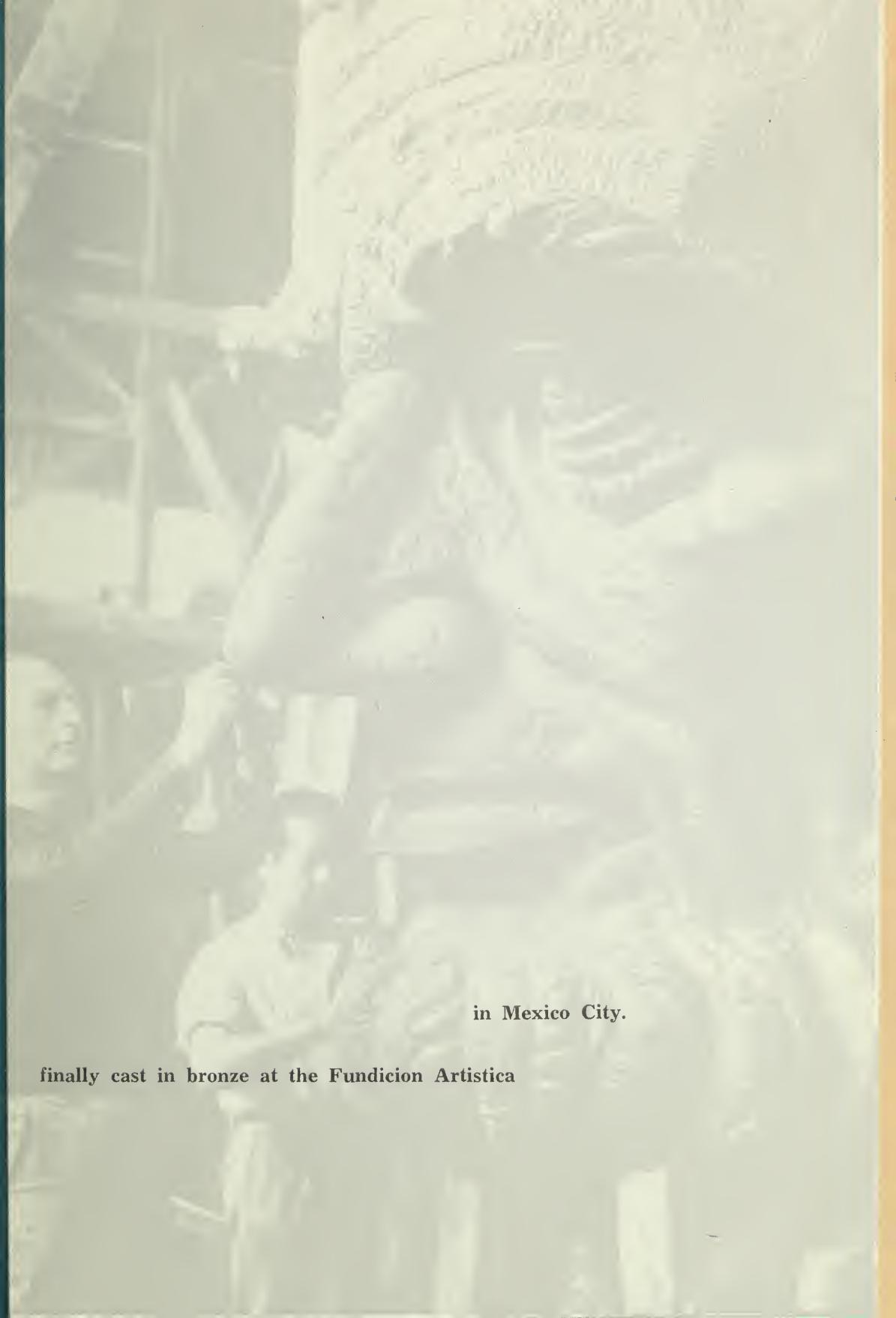
Six months in the making,



the head was first sculpted in clay,

then cast in 63 large plaster sections,

8.



in Mexico City.

finally cast in bronze at the Fundicion Artistica



U.S. SENATOR GALE W. McGEE OF WYOMING

WAS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION EXERCISES.



OTHER SPEAKERS WERE

PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING : G. D. HUMPHREY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, LINCOLN SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS : E. C. SMITH

PRESIDENT, WYOMING HIGHWAY 30 ASSOCIATION : LOUIS BOSCHETTO

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR WYOMING : KEITH THOMSON

GOVERNOR OF WYOMING : J. J. HICKEY

DONOR OF THE STATUE : DR. CHARLES W. JEFFREY, RAWLINS, WYOMING

THE SCULPTOR : ROBERT I. RUSIN

MINISTER, UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LARAMIE, WYOMING : REV. JOHN P. McCONNELL



MR. AND MRS. RUSIN

S

SPEAKERS AT THE DEDICATION

DR. CHARLES W. JEFFREY



JOHN P. McCONNELL

KEITH THOMSON

GALE W. McGEE

SHERRELL WATSON

G. D. HUMPHREY

NORMAN CABLE

E. C. SMITH

CHARLES W. JEFFREY

LOUIS BOSCHETTO

MRS. RUSSIN

ROBERT I. RUSSIN

T. A. LARSON

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING BAND
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CHARLES P. SELTENRICH PLAYED AT THE DEDICATION.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES WAS T. A. LARSON,
CHAIRMAN OF THE LARAMIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE
IN CHARGE OF THE DEDICATION ACTIVITIES.

a

ADDRESSES AT THE DEDICATION

May I congratulate Chamber of Commerce officials and others who have had a part in planning this program today. It is certainly a memorable occasion for all of Wyoming, and particularly for those of us at the University and in Laramie.

In my early years I was very much interested in history—especially American history—and I had the privilege of teaching it for a good many years. After studying and teaching the biographies of our country's great leaders, I came to the conclusion that the three Presidents who most typified our American heritage and way of life were Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.

Although a number of years have passed since I arrived at that conclusion, and I am no longer working in the field of history, I have not changed my opinion that these three men, more than any others, really represent what America stands for.

It is very fitting, I feel, that we should do honor here today to the great Emancipator in dedicating this magnificent statue in his honor. Made possible by the generosity of one of Wyoming's outstanding citizens, Dr. C. W. Jeffrey, and sculpted by the University's own Professor Robert I. Russin, the statue will stand here on the Lincoln Highway throughout the years as a reminder to everyone who passes by that Wyoming and its University will always honor and cherish the principles for which Lincoln stood.

E. C. SMITH: SECRETARY, HIGHWAY 30 ASSOCIATION

I am happy for the privilege that has been afforded me on this happy occasion to express on behalf of the Lincoln System of Highways, its President, Ray McKim of Grand Island, Nebraska, who unfortunately cannot be here today, its officers and members, our appreciation and gratitude for the great work of art which will be shortly unveiled to you. We know it will be one of the top attractions for the millions who pass this way each year. To the two fine citizens of our beloved State, Dr. C. W. Jeffrey of Rawlins, Wyoming, who so generously provided the funds, and Robert Russin of Laramie and the University of Wyoming, the sculptor, we acknowledge an eternal debt of gratitude. Our "thank you" is small payment indeed for this wonderful gift, but we know that you will be fully rewarded in the knowledge that each day, you will be contributing to the pleasure and delight of the hundreds and thousands of travelers who pass this way.

HONORABLE KEITH THOMSON: UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE TODAY FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN . . .

I KNOW THAT THE GREAT MAN WHOM WE HONOR HERE AND WHOSE STATUE WE PLACE HERE, ON THE SUMMIT OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE SIDE OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL HIGHWAY WHICH BEARS HIS NAME, WOULD BE INDEED PLEASED AND HONORED WITH THIS RECOGNITION, AND EVEN MORE SO FOR WHAT IT STANDS.

WE ARE ALL DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE FACT THAT DR. JEFFREY HAS CHOSEN THIS ENDEAVOR AS A MEANS OF EXPRESSING HIS CONFIDENCE IN OUR AMERICA.

WHAT PRESIDENT LINCOLN STOOD FOR WAS UNITY OF COUNTRY AND UNITY OF PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLE. THIS IS THE GREATEST HONOR THAT WE CAN PAY HIS MEMORY—THAT ALL OF US ARE DEDICATED TO THOSE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH HE LIVED AND DIED.

FOR MR. RUSGIN, WHO TENDS TO BE MODERN IN MOST OF HIS WORK, THE LINCOLN HEAD WAS A RETURN TO REALISTIC SCULPTURE. HE CREATED A "BROODING, CONTEMPLATIVE LINCOLN" WHOSE FACE IS MARKED WITH A DEEP CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY. THE SCULPTOR STRESSED THE QUALITY OF SIMPLE NOBILITY WHICH, HE SAYS, LINCOLN SYMBOLIZES SO WELL FOR ALL AMERICA.

"WHAT LINCOLN SAID AND STOOD FOR IN HIS TIME," RUSGIN SAYS, "IS STILL OF GREAT IMPORT TO OUR COUNTRY IN TODAY'S WORLD OF CHANGING VALUES."

THAT SHOULD BE THE PROPOSITION TO WHICH THIS STATUE IS DEDICATED — THE LIVING PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH LINCOLN STOOD.

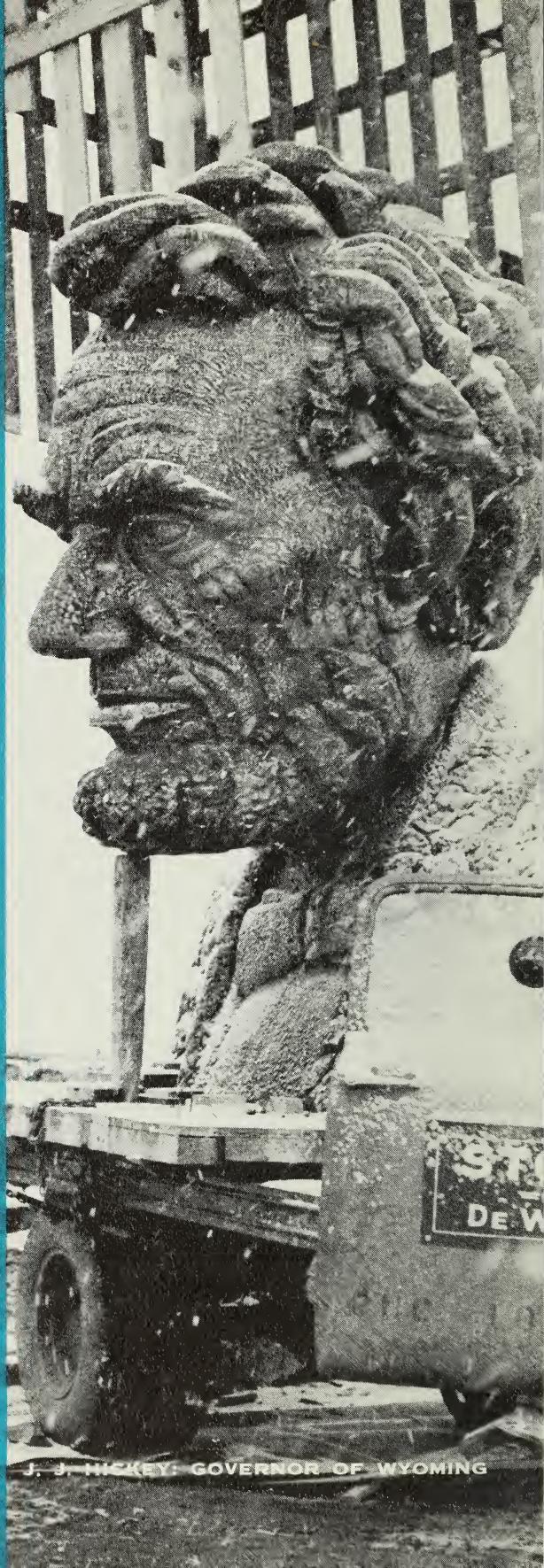
The presence here today of so many residents from throughout the State of Wyoming is silent testimony of the gratitude of a great State to you Doctor Jeffrey, as the donor, and to you Professor Russin as the creator of this outstanding monument.

The dedication of the Lincoln Monument today is a highlight in the history of Wyoming. We who grew up and established businesses along the small interstate highway that bore the name of the Great Emancipator, today view the dedication and the magnificent highway running immediately below the monument with some nostalgia.

As I look over the crowd here assembled, I see the faces of many people who operated businesses along the interstate highway in the southern part of Wyoming and who adopted it as a name for their particular business which catered to the traveling public, because it was then the only known name of the highway. The many Lincoln Highway business houses which stretched across the State were all mute testimony of the love of the people for the name of the Great Emancipator.

Throughout the years as we watched this tiny ribbon grow to the magnificent laned traffic artery it is today, we have seen the numerical designation change on several occasions and have noted that the original name given because of the fact that it was a farsighted plan of our great President Lincoln, whose foresight and faith lay in the great West of the United States, become less and less the name of this great highway. Therefore, I would charge each of you today in commemoration of the event sponsored here to leave this place with the dedication that you will restore the use of the name Lincoln Highway and perhaps insist upon the use of the red, white and blue marker which originally designated this, as the great national highway bearing the name of Abraham Lincoln.

HONORABLE



HONORABLE GALE W. MCGEE: U. S. SENATOR

FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT HERE ON TOP OF THE LARAMIE MOUNTAINS WE SEE TO THE SOUTH THE FRONT RANGE OF THE ROCKIES. AND AS YOU ASCEND THESE LARAMIE PEAKS, YOU GATHER IN THE MAGNIFICENCE OF GOD'S TOWERING STATUES IN GEOLOGY. AND YET, WHEN YOU TRAVEL CLOSE UP TO THOSE PEAKS, WHEN YOU'RE AT THEIR BASE, THEIR REAL STATURE SEEMS LOST UPON YOU. IT IS ONLY WHEN YOU ACQUIRE THE PERSPECTIVE OF DISTANCE AND HEIGHT THAT THEIR POWER AND THEIR INTENSITY ENCROACH UPON YOU. AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN HISTORY. AS WE HAVE RECEDED FROM THIS HISTORIC MOMENT IN THE PAST AND HAVE ACQUIRED THE PERSPECTIVE OF TIME AND THE JUDGMENT, THE DEEP JUDGMENT OF EXPERIENCE, LINCOLN HAS GROWN, AND STILL GROWS, IN THE EYES OF ALL MEN . . .

LINCOLN COUPLED WITH THIS LOVE AND DEDICATION TO THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT A PERSPECTIVE OF HISTORY NOT ALWAYS COMMANDED BY STATESMEN IN GOVERNMENT. HE WAS FOND OF SAYING THAT "WE CANNOT ESCAPE HISTORY," BUT HE WAS ALSO QUICK TO SAY THAT "NEITHER MUST WE BE SHACKLED BY IT." AND THE QUOTATION ON THE FRONT OF THIS MONUMENT REFLECTED THE REAL DYNAMISM OF LINCOLN'S PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY WHEN HE SAID, "THE DEAD DOGMA OF THE PAST SHOULD NOT RESTRAIN US NOR HOLD US BACK FROM TACKLING THE TURMOIL OF THE PRESENT. AND THUS WE MUST THINK ANEW AND ACT ANEW." IT'S IN THIS PHILOSOPHY OF LINCOLN THAT WE FIND THE ARCHITECTURAL OUTLINES FOR AMERICA TODAY AND TOMORROW. FOR IT'S HERE THAT WE CAN MINE A WEALTH OF IDEAS FOR WHICH THE WORLD IS IN SEARCH AT THIS MOMENT. THE WORLD KNOWS LINCOLN . . . AND SO IT IS FROM THE CHINA SEA, TO INDIA, TO AFRICA, TO RUSSIA, A MESSAGE FROM LINCOLN, AN INSPIRATION THAT GUIDES THEIR PUBLIC CONDUCT. THIS BECOMES AMERICA'S OPPORTUNITY . . . AND WHAT GREATER THRILL THAN TO ATTRACT AND TO PROMOTE AND TO JOIN WITH THESE PEOPLE IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN WHOM THEY ALREADY UNDERSTAND, WHO ALREADY HAS INSPIRED THEM TO THE CAUSES THAT WE OURSELVES HOLD MOST DEAR TO OUR COUNTRY. THIS IS AMERICA'S GREAT OPPORTUNITY. LINCOLN BECOMES THE GREAT TEACHER OF ALL . . .

A

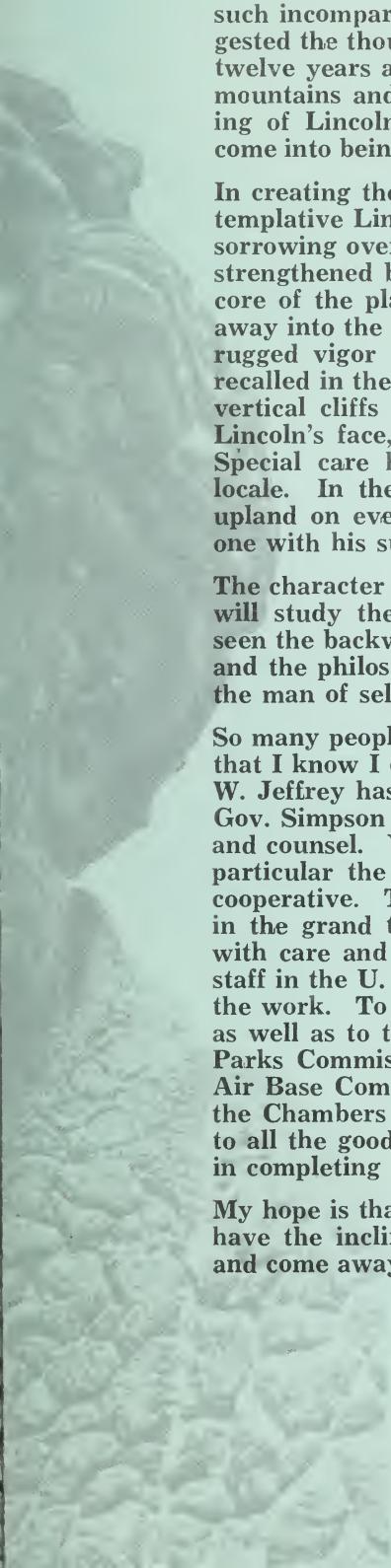
Abraham Lincoln has always been one of the truly significant men in the history of progress. What he said and stood for in his time is still of great import to our country in today's world of changing values. Above and beyond the validity of his philosophy, his personal qualities were such as to bring forth the best in a nation. His genius was, and still is, the ability to evoke a profound humanistic response in all our hearts.

We are all better people
in the contemplation of Lincoln.

ROBERT I. RUSSIN: SCULPTOR

R





The summit of the Lincoln Highway is located in a land of such incomparable sweep and grandeur that it inevitably suggested the thought of a Lincoln statue when first I saw it some twelve years ago. As I stood before the ageless drama of the mountains and valleys which summoned up the epic meaning of Lincoln, I knew that someday the monument would come into being.

In creating the statue, I have tried to depict a brooding, contemplative Lincoln in the last years of his life, his great heart sorrowing over the rent nation. It is his vision of Democracy, strengthened by both resolution and compassion, which is the core of the plastic form. The ruggedness of the hills falling away into the breadth of the valley below finds an echo in the rugged vigor of his face. The splendor of the landscape is recalled in the nobility of his character. Towards the east the vertical cliffs are reflected not only in the vertical stress of Lincoln's face, but in the upward thrust of the granite base. Special care has been taken to weld the monument to its locale. In the surge of the valley to the south, and in the upland on every horizon, I have tried to make a Lincoln at one with his surroundings.

The character of Lincoln is a complex one, and if the observer will study the head from various viewpoints, there will be seen the backwoodsman as well as the President, the humorist and the philosopher, the man of inflexible purpose as well as the man of selfless humility.

So many people have helped in the creation of this monument that I know I do an injustice to name but a few. Dr. Charles W. Jeffrey has been exemplary as a donor and friend. Both Gov. Simpson and Gov. Hickey gave generously of their time and counsel. Various agencies of the Mexican government, in particular the National Railways of Mexico, were unusually cooperative. The Fundicion Artistica of Mexico City worked in the grand tradition in casting the large head into bronze with care and dispatch. Ambassador Robert C. Hill and his staff in the U. S. Embassy cooperated to the full in expediting the work. To all of these people and agencies I am indebted, as well as to the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming State Parks Commission, the U. S. Forest Service, the Ft. Warren Air Base Command, the Wyoming Highway Department, and the Chambers of Commerce of Laramie and Cheyenne. And to all the good friends in Wyoming who have encouraged me in completing this task, I have a special debt.

My hope is that all who stop and linger at the monument may have the inclination to contemplate the meaning of Lincoln, and come away renewed and refreshed by the nobility of man.

T

The Dedication Exercises

and this Brochure were sponsored by

the Laramie Chamber of Commerce,

the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce,

and the Lincoln System of Highways.

W

THE
WASHINGTON DEDICATION



P

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION

REVEREND JOHN P. MCCONNELL

God of all nations and our God, who has given us this great land for our heritage and through the work of man hast bound it together with highways; who in times of crisis hast raised up leaders who have led us forward toward the goals of our founding Fathers; who canst use the resources and talents of men to adorn Thy handiwork; we give Thee thanks for the great American we honor this day and the highway which to many of us still bears his name.

In this day of anonymity when highways and people are becoming mere numbers in our social system, we are grateful for this individual who represents the best of our heritage. We pray that this monument may remind all who see it of the heritage which is ours and the responsibility which we today share to extend to others what we so richly enjoy.

To the memory of Abraham Lincoln and the great spirit which characterized the man; to the acceptance of our responsibility to carry forward the goals he envisioned; to the acceptance by us of his mantle of compassion and service, we dedicate this monument . . . and now go in peace, and the peace of God that passeth all understanding keep your minds and hearts this day through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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REISSINGOLIN



